

interest have in the north been linked with practical considerations and men's adherence to one politician or another has to some extent been guided by their opinion of the social effect of the views that he professes and has not been solely determined by sentiment or jealousy.

The industry of these Baltic peoples has been stimulated very greatly by the freedom of their women. Swayed less masterfully than south-erners by the reproductive instinct, they have, from the beginnings of their history, prized woman for her companionship as well as for her purely sexual attributes, and have conceded to her a substantial measure of liberty. The mediæval ideas of romance and chivalry manifest a self-restraint in regard to her which seems strange, if not ludicrous, to a Mediterranean. Her material desires are treated with indulgence, and they have been a most important factor in creating the demand for dress and furniture which has started the wheels of factories and has swelled the current of trade. Man is generally content to live in barbarous simplicity, or to share with other men the comforts of a club. It is to woman that we owe the multifarious demands of the home—the extravagances, if you will—that attend the establishment of a separate centre of life for each family. Imagine the streets of London deserted by women : nine-tenths of the shops would be

shut. the tramways and omnibuses
would pay
no dividends.

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It must be confessed that these
material ambitions are in themselves less
respectable than the
ideas that may be evoked by
introspective meditation : the pursuit of comfort. of
riches. can
hardly be ranked with the moral
aspirations that
have been enshrined in all ages by
religious and